

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

North Haven Memorial Library Board Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2010

Minutes

Attendance: The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Kaercher at 7:30pm.

Present: Sarah Aziz, Lois Baldini, Ruth Bryant, Kimberly Carew, Patricia Dortenzio, Michael Fletcher, Raymond Fowler, John Graef, Phyllis Kaercher, Erin MacDonnell, Jeanne Saldanha.

Absent: None.

1. Phyllis Kaercher called the meeting to order. She then turned the meeting over to our new First Selectman, Michael Freda. He informed the Board that by Town Charter the First Selectman has to attend the first meeting of every Board and Commission in town once the new term unfolds. The First Order of Business is to call for a motion to nominate a Chairman of the Library Board. A motion was made by Kim Carew to nominate Phyllis Kaercher as Chairman. Seconded by Erin MacDonnell. A motion was made by Phyllis Kaercher to nominate Michael Fletcher as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Erin MacDonnell. A motion was made by Phyllis Kaercher to nominate Kim Carew as Secretary. Seconded by Ruth Bryant. Congratulations were extended to all by the First Selectman who turned the meeting over to the Chairman, Phyllis Kaercher.
2. Phyllis Kaercher requested that the the minutes of the November 19th meeting be accepted. Ray Fowler commented on the status of his move to the Board of Ethics. Due to technicalities, he was disqualified. Mr. Freda answered Phyllis Kaercher's question about when Mr. Fowler would be eligible. Mr. Freda stated that in order to be selected to the Board of Ethics one must be off any other board for a year. At the next Board of Selectman meeting, resumes will be reviewed. Phyllis Kaercher welcomed our two new board members, Ruth Bryant and Jeanne Saldanha. Ray Fowler moved the minutes be accepted, seconded by John Graef. Phyllis Kaercher asked that the financial statement be accepted; motion by John Graef, seconded by Michael Fletcher.
3. Old Business: Phyllis Kaercher brought up the issue of the North Haven Education Foundation; asked for any clarification regarding this issue. Lois Baldini stated she spoke with John Parese who said he would contact her. He has not. At the last meeting the Board said they did not feel the plaques belonged here. Lois Baldini, as Director, also did not believe that this was appropriate. Kim Carew asked about a subcommittee – Phyllis Kaercher reminded us that John Carlson did not feel that this was necessary. Ray Fowler moved that until and unless the Education Foundation comes to the Board for a presentation on the matter, it be dropped from the agenda, Kim Carew seconded.
4. New Business: Director's Report: The budget was submitted in December with a zero increase. The Librarian's contract is scheduled for a wage re-opener now, but we do not have any dates for negotiations yet. The Supervisor's Union contract ended this year.

No other lines were raised in the budget unless they were contractually driven. There was a mistake in the LEAP budget in our favor with an increase of \$24.00. We did not ask for an increase in the book budget, it will stay the same. We had hoped to put in self check out machines for the Library but that was pulled out. A request for office furniture was put in. Our current furniture is not ergonomically correct. The budget workshop to defend the budget is on Saturday, Jan. 23rd at 8:30 a.m. It is open to the public. Mr. Freda asked if there was anything in our budget that we really needed and did not ask for. Lois said no, however, we can't afford to lose what we have. Phyllis Kaercher asked about the Ida Cacesse money. We have not received anything thus far. Lois explained the history of the two bequests from her. We will receive an additional bequest from her estate.

Mr. Freda offered an overview of the budget. The path is to balance the current fiscal year. There is a \$1.4 million shortfall-driven by tax collection in arrears (\$500,000.00). Overage piled up. We are in the process of doing a claims adjustment in arrears with the Hartford. A \$500,000.00 – 700,000.00 rebate may come as a result of this. The State will not cut back on ECS payments. The State may cut back on ECS payments for next year. There is a 5.5 million projection deficit for next year. There is a freeze on current capital spending for this year. The deficit loss of Upjohn income is one million. 2.5 million dollars was taken from the fund balance. Distribution of CRRRA money was used to balance the budget last year. This does not include any contractual obligation. Anthem is set to increase 27%; we may be able to negotiate this to 20-24%. This was not what we expected. The net grand list is declining. Erin MacDonnell asked about why we get so little from the state. The formula used by the state years ago indicated we were financially healthy, so we got less. Phyllis Kaercher expressed concern on the book budget. This is something that cannot be cut. Lois Baldini mentioned keeping our fine money for materials.

The roof is holding up so far. The money ran out before sufficient snow guards were provided. Lois did notify the selectman. Mr. Freda called the contractor who said it would be \$20,000.00 to fix. Public Works does not have the expertise to work on it. Spoke with Grant Peckham who thinks his people can do it if we rent a bucket crane.

The book discussion for One Book Program was a huge success. It was a great discussion. Pat Johnson facilitated the discussion. History teacher Paul Whalen provided a historical background. Phyllis Kaercher asked if the Adult Dept. could have a book discussion. Lois said it may be difficult to pull the staff off the floor. Connecticut Humanities Council was mentioned by Kim Carew. We may be able to get a facilitator. Jeanne Saldanha mentioned New Haven programs on local mystery authors may be of interest. The next program will be Drawing of Enemy at the Door – starting on Jan. 31st. Trips to British Arts Museum; Gnocchi; Feb. 3, Valentines for Vets; Feb 6.

There are 35 winter/spring programs. We are beginning to plan for the summer reading program. Amusement park, circus, country fair theme. A list of items needed for the Children's Department was distributed. Also distributed flyer's for the Historical Society at Barnes & Noble as a fund raiser.

Other: Phyllis Kaercher said that a new resident complimented our staff. Kim Carew asked about the length of her remaining term. As terms expire, Mr. Freda said a letter will be sent.

5. The next scheduled meeting will be held on March 18th, at 7:30 p.m. M. Fletcher moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30pm. Seconded by Erin MacDonnell.